

adds Augustine, they identify Isis with Ceres,¹ Further, at harvest-time, when the Egyptian reapers had cut the first stalks, they laid them down and beat their breasts,² wailing and calling upon Isis.³ The custom has been already explained as a lament for the corn-spirit slain under the sickle.³ Amongst the epithets by which Isis is designated in the inscriptions are " Creatress of green things/⁴" Green goddess, whose green colour is like unto the greenness of the earth," "Lady of Bread," "Lady of Beer," "Lady of Abundance."⁵ According to Brugsch she is " not only the creatress of the fresh verdure of vegetation which covers the earth, but is actually the green corn-field itself, which is personified as a goddess."⁵ This is confirmed by her epithet *Sochit* or *Socket*, meaning " a corn-field/⁶ a sense which the word still retains in Coptic.⁶ The Greeks conceived of Isis as a corn-goddess, for they identified her with Demeter.⁷ In a Greek epigram she is described as " she who has given birth to the fruits of the earth/⁸ and " the mother of the ears of corn "⁹ and in a hymn composed in her honour she speaks of herself as " queen of the wheat-field," and is described as " charged with the care of the fruitful furrow's wheat-rich path."⁹ Accordingly, Greek or Roman artists often represented her with ears of corn on her head or in her hand.¹⁰

Such, we may suppose, was Isis in the olden time, a Refinement rustic Corn-Mother adored with uncouth rites by Egyptian [^]*HzSon*" swains. But the homely features of the clownish goddess of isis in could hardly be traced in the refined, the saintly form which, [^]*po^iT'* spiritualized by ages of religious evolution, she presented to larity of

¹ i • r /• i ,1 j T ,1 * i
her worship

her worshippers of after days as the true
wife, the tender ^{in the} Roman

¹ Augustine, *De civitate Dei** viii. ⁷ Herodotus, ii. 59, 156;
Diodorus Siculus, i. 13, 25, 96 ;
27. Tertullian says that Isis wore a wreath of the corn she had discovered *Bibliotheca*, ii. i. 3 ; J. Tzetzes,
Apollo *lorus*, *Sc/iol.* *(De corona*, 7). *on Lycophron*, 212. See further
^{W.} ² Diodorus Siculus, i. 14. 2. Drexler, *s.v.* "Isis," in W. H. Roscher's *Lexikoi dcr giech.*
³ See above, p. 45, and vol. i. p. 232. ⁴ H. Brugsch, *Religion und iVythologie der alien Aegypter*, p. 647 ; ⁵ *Anthologia Plamidea*^ cclxiv. i.
E. A. Wallis Budge, *Osiris and the Egyptian Resurrection* ^ ii. 277. *conkcta*, ed. G. Kaibel (Berlin, 1878),
⁶ If. Brugsch, *op. cit.* p. 649. Com- No. 1028, pp. 437 sq. ;
Orphica, ed,
pare E. A. Wallis Budge, *The Gods of the Egyptians*, ii. 216. E. Abel (Leipsic and Prague, 1885),
⁷ H. Brugsch, *loc. cit.* pp. 295 sqq. ⁸ W. Drexler, *op. cit.* ii. 448 sqq.